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13V-122
(4 pages)



CHRYSLER

April 3, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
Room: W48-302
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Attached is Chrysler Group LLC's ("Chrysler") Defect Information Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a potential safety related defect in vehicles.

Chrysler Group will conduct a voluntary safety recall to replace the NVH Engine Cover with the 'Batwing' EGR system Shield on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Kolodge".

Kristin Kolodge

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Group LLC. Recall N19

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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Submission Date: April 3, 2013

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name, Brand Name

Chrysler Group LLC, Dodge

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Affected Vehicles

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
RAM	3500	2013	January 7, 2013 – March 6, 2013

573.6(c)(2)(iv): Component manufacturer name, address, telephone number, and country of origin:

Dana Corporation
Plumley Division
100 Plumley Drive
Paris, TN 38242, USA
731 – 642 - 5582

573.6(c)(3): Potentially Affected Vehicle Population

6,143 (estimated)

573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Affected Vehicles

1% (approximate)

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect or Noncompliance

During EGR cooler bypass there is a risk of trapping excessive heat under the cover on the passenger side of the engine. There is a risk of changing the thermal environment as a result of misassembling the engine cover during service. Either may result in an under hood fire.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events Leading to Determination of a Safety Defect

- In late February 2013, a Prototype level 2013MY D2 (RAM 3500) test vehicle performing an extensive test cycle at the Chelsea Proving Ground experienced an under hood fire.
- An investigation into the origin and cause identified that the fire had started on top of the engine toward the passenger side in the area of the EGR cooler.
- A Survey of Chrysler Proving Ground RAM 3500 DJ & D2 trucks found visible signs of heat damage to the underneath of the Engine Cover. Some of the covers were found torn, and attachments damaged or missing, as a result of improper service repair actions, causing them to be incorrectly attached to the engine.
- A review of the Engine Cover material specifications indicates the cover physically degrades at 570°F. The cover does not generate a flame when exposed to temperatures greater than 570° F. Supplier reported the Flame propagation (FMVSS 302) rate was 12 mm/min to a 100 mm/min requirement.
- Thermocouple measurements while repeating the event with the Engine Cover properly installed was inconclusive. Measured temperatures under the cover were considered normal (250° F<).
- The most likely cause of the fire event was determined to be ignition of co-located components, as a result of under hood temperatures increasing due to the insulating effect of the engine cover. Removing the cover will lower temperatures of these co-located components.
- On March 26, 2013, Chrysler Group LLC decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall on all affected vehicles.

573.6(c)(7): Information Used in Determination of a Noncompliance

N/A

573.6(c)(8): Description of Remedy

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to replace the replace the NVH Engine Cover with the 'Batwing' EGR system Shield on all affected vehicles.

Chrysler has a long standing policy and practice of reimbursing owners who have incurred the cost of repairing a problem that subsequently becomes the subject of a field action. To ensure consistency, Chrysler, as part of the owner letter, will request that customers send the original receipt and/or other adequate proof of payment to the company for confirmation of the expense.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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573.6(c)(10): Dealer and Owner Communications

Chrysler will begin to notify dealers and owners by the end of May, 2013.

573.6(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Number

Chrysler has assigned recall number N19 to this action.